

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, BE

SUBJECT: FRENCH EFFORTS IN F-104 REPLACEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS EXTRACT FROM DASSAULT BROCHURE PROVIDED MEMBERS OF PRESS DURING DASSAULT PRESS MEETING IN PARIS 26-28 AUG 74. IT IS PROVIDED TO ILLUSTRATE CURRENT FRENCH EFFORTS IN F-104 REPLACEMENT ISSUE WHICH MAY BE APPEARING IN PRESS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ASPECTS: THE F-1-M53 SOLUTION WILL OFFER THE FOLLOWING:

--INSURING TO EUROPE AT LEAST 1/3 OF SUCH MARKET (1,400 MIRAGE III/5 HAVE BEEN SOLD BY FRANCE ALONE) WITH THE ASSUMPTION
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OF 2 COMPETITORS.

-- REPRESENTS THE LAST AND SOLE CHANCE TO MAINTAIN IN EUROPE DURING THE 20 YEARS TO COME AND R&D CAPACITY IN MILITARY AIRCRAFT SECTOR.

-- INTEGRATES BELGIUM, THE NETHERLANDS AND FRANCE IN A STEADY PROJECT, WHICH WILL BE THE START OF CLOSE, PERMANENT COOPERATION AT LONG TERM, FOR THE THREE NATIONAL AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIES.

-- MATERIALIZING POLITICAL TREND IN OUTLINING A REAL COMMUNITY OF EUROPEAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT, WHICH SHOULD SUPPORT FRANCE ACCESS TO AN ORGANIZATION OF THE EUROGROUP TYPE HAVING A REAL EUROPEAN PURPOSE.

SUCH A SOLUTION FOR INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION AND ARMAMENT STANDARDIZATION IN EUROPE IS ENHANCED BY:

-- EEC RECOMMENDATIONS

-- UEO

-- NATO REQUIRING MORE EUROPE SUPPORT FOR ITS OWN DEFENSE.

-- EUROPEAN INDUSTRIES HAVEING SIGNED A JOINT STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT.

F1-M53 SELECTION WILL NOT BE A POLITICAL ACTION AGAINST THE UNITED STATES, BUT IT WILL EMPHASIZE EUROPE'S INTENT OF NO DEPENDENCE IN A REAL PARTNERSHIP ALLIANCE.

-- EUROPE ALREADY BUYS A LARGE PART OF IT ARMAMENT AND THE BIGGEST PART OF ITS CIVIL AIRCRAFT FLEET FROM THE U.S. ABANDONING ALL MILITARY AIRCRAFT PROJECTS TO THE U.S., IN A HIGHLY TECHNICAL KEY SECTOR EXPANDING VERY QUICKLY, WILL MEAN THE END OF OUR RESEARCH ACTIVITY IN THIS FIELD AND GOING UNDER U.S. COMPLETE TECHNOLOGICAL SPONSORSHIP.

-- ON THE COMMERCIAL SIDE THE U.S. BALANCE WILL BE EVEN GOOD IN 1974 WHILE THE MAIN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE MUCH MORE AFFECTED BY THE DISORDER AND CONFUSION OF WORLD ECONOMIC STATUS. MODIFYING THE PRESENT "BURDEN SHARING" CONCEPT AMONG NATO COUNTRIES IN FAVOR OF THE U.S. WILL ONLY UNFAIRLY AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION OF EUROPE.

WESTERN COUNTRIES ARE COMPELLED TO KEEP UP THEIR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY EXPANSION REATE, BECAUSE:

-- PRODUCT OF HIGH TECHNICALITY WILL BE OUR MAIN CURRANCY FOR ACQUIRING RAW MATERIAL.

-- PRODUCTION TRANSFER OF HIGH CONSUMPTION GOODS TO NEW AND CHEAPER MANPOWER IN OTHER CONTINENTS REQUIRES THAT EUROPE TRAINS AND HIRES MORE QUALIFIED PERSONNEL IN ATTEMPTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPECIALIZATION IN SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT. SAFEGUARDING A MAJOR EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY FOLLOWS THE TREND. HOWEVER, SHOULD WE ACCEPT U.S. SPONSORSHIP IN A PROGRAM WHERE EUROPE WILL ONLY ACT AS SUB-CONTRACTOR WOULD MEAN THE BEGINNING OF OUR BRAINTRUST OUTFLOW TO THE U.S. AND WILL BE THE SIGN OF A SERIOUS ABNEGATION.

3. CONCLUSION. SELECTION OF THE FUTURE BELGIAN, DUTCH, DANISH

AND NORWEGIAN COMBAT AIRCRAFT WILL REPRESENT:

AN INDUSTRIAL COMMITMENT:

-- EITHER FOR THE EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY REAL RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY AND VERY CLOSE COOPERATION.

-- OR FOR ABANDONING TO THE U.S. THE COMPLETE PRIME
CONTRACTOR ABILITY CONCERNING ANY AIRCRAFT PROJECT, CIVIL OR
MILITARY, WHILE EUROPE WILL HAVE THE SUBCONTRACTING PRODUCTION
WORK.

A POLITICAL ACTION:

-- FOR PROGRESSIVELY BUT EFFECTIVELY TAKING UP THE
EUROPEAN TREND, TO A EUROPEAN DEFENSE COMMUNITY BASED ON AN
INDUSTRIAL REALITY.

-- OR FOR LEAVING TO THE U.S. THE MONOPOLY FOR EUROPEAN
DEFENSE EQUIPMENT AND CORRESPONDING TECHNOLOGY, WHICH WILL ENTAIL
EUROPE ENTIRE DEPENDENCE FROM THE U.S.

SUCH A PROGRAM WILL LAST 20 YEARS: IT IS A QUESTION OF DECISION
WHEREBY THE FUTURE OF ONE OF OUR ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL SECTOR WILL
BE IRREVERSIBLY COMMITTED WHILE THIS SECTOR IS VITAL FOR
EUROPE TECHNOLOGICAL EXPANSION AND FOR ITS WHOLE PROSPERITY.

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